

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 11 have been amended herein. Claim 3 has been canceled, and claims 12-14 newly added. No new matter has been added.

I. PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Applicants initially would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicants representatives during a personal interview on June 5, 2006. During the interview, applicants representatives proposed amending claims 1 and 5 primarily as amended above.¹ Applicants representatives pointed out how *Stokes* did not teach or suggest such features. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments to claims 1 and 5 appeared to overcome *Stokes*, and would be fully considered upon applicants submission of this amendment.

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended herein consistent with the proposed amendment discussed with the Examiner during the aforementioned personal interview, with the exception of the following. Claim 1 as amended herein indicates how the RAM stores an intermediate code and encrypted intermediate code to be executed by a control section (rather than a CPU) upon being interpreted. Conversely, a CPU controls the execution of the interpreter execution function (rather than a controller). In other words, the functions of the CPU and the control section have been reversed.

¹Applicants note there are slight variations between the proposed claims 1 and 5 as discussed during the interview, and claims 1 and 5 as amended above. As discussed herein, such changes are merely for purposes of utilizing terminology in claims 1 and 5 consistent with the terminology used in the detailed specification.

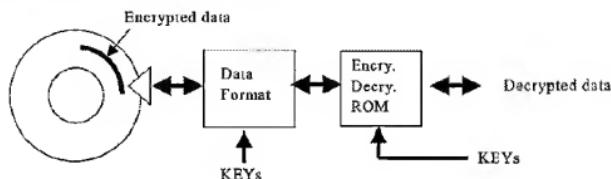
Applicants do not intend that the above change have an impact on the scope of the claimed invention (e.g., a controller could be a CPU, and vice versa). Rather, such change is made simply because the present application describes the invention in terms of the CPU controlling execution of the interpreter execution program, and the control section for executing the interpreted code. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 10, Ins. 17-31; CPU 102 for controlling execution of the interpreter execution program; and control section 121 for controlling an apparatus based on the interpreted intermediate code). Applicants simply wish to maintain consistency between the terminology in the claims and that used in the detailed description.

In addition, claims 1 and 5 as amended herein refer to the intermediate codes representing command control strings (rather than programs) executed by the control section. Again, applicants do not intend such change to affect the scope of the claims as discussed during the interview. Rather, applicants simply wish to maintain consistency in terminology between the claims and the detailed description. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 10, Ins. 21-23, referring to the control section 121 controlling the recording/reproduction of information on an optical disc 114 according to the generated control command string).

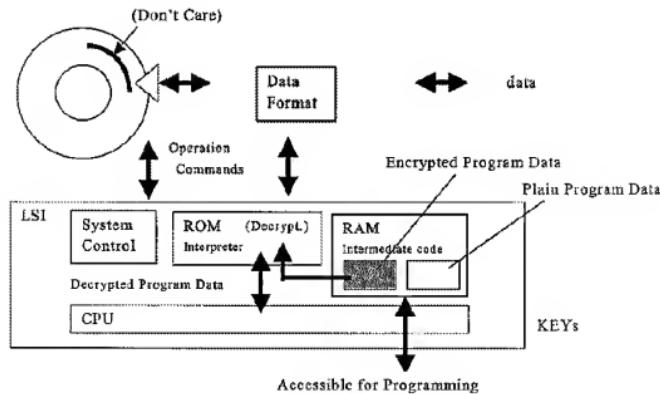
For the reasons discussed during the interview and outlined again below for the Examiner's convenience, *Stokes* does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed.

III. PRESENT INVENTION COMPARED TO STOKES

Stokes(prior art)



Sato (invention)



As is exemplified in the above comparison discussed during the interview, Stokes is concerned with reading and storing encrypted data from an information storage disk. By encrypting the data on the disk and preventing user access to the decryption keys, unauthorized users are prevented from accessing the encrypted data.

Amended claims 1 and 5, on the other hand, define how the intermediate code and encrypted intermediate code at issue represents command control strings to be executed by a control section. The intermediate code and encrypted intermediate code do not represent merely data as in the case of *Stokes*.

The present invention is advantageous as it permits the user of an apparatus (e.g., an optical disc apparatus) to modify the intermediate codes (and hence the control commands and operation of the device) to some extent. On the other hand, other portions of the apparatus control relating to the encrypted intermediate codes cannot be interpreted or modified by the user, thereby maintaining the proprietary nature of the code. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 8, ln. 21 to p. 9, ln. 6). New claims 13 and 14 are specifically directed to such aspect.

As applicants pointed out during the interview, *Stokes* simply has nothing to do with the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. Applicants agree with the Examiner that *Stokes* appears to teach storing a program in ROM 55 for distributing data between disks 12 and 15 (Col. 6, Ins. 49-55). However, there clearly is no teaching or suggestion of the ROM 55 storing intermediate code and encrypted intermediate code as recited in amended claims 1 and 5.

The secondary references that the Examiner relied upon in previously rejecting the claims do not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Stokes*.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the application.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1 and 4-14 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

/Mark D. Saralino/

Mark D. Saralino
Registration No. 34,243

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The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113